

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8 and 9-16, 18 and 19 stand rejected. Claim 17 stands objected to. Claims 1-2, 9-11 and 17-18 are canceled. Claims 3-6, 8, 12, 14 and 19 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-7 and 9-19 are at issue.

Claim 17 stands objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but has been deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 12 has been amended to recite, in independent form, the subject matter previously claimed in claim 12 and claim 17. Claim 17 is canceled. Accordingly, claim 12, as amended, is believed to recite allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 3-4, 8 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Paltenghe (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0004783). Claims 1 and 8 are canceled. Such cancellations and any others in this reply and amendment, are made without prejudice to claiming the same or similar subject matter in a subsequent continuation application. Claims 3-4 are amended to depend from claim 12. Claim 8 is amended to depend from claim 13, which, in turn, depends from claim 12. Claims 3-4 and 8 are allowable, inter alia, for the reasons given with respect to claim 12 above.

Claims 12-14 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Arditti (U.S. Patent No. 5,991,413). As set forth above, claim 12 is amended to recite the subject matter previously deemed to be allowable when recited in dependent claim 17. Claim 14 depends from claim 12, and claim 16 depends from claim 14. The dependent claims are allowable, inter alia, for the same reasons set forth with respect to claim 12.

Claims 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Paltenghe in view of Resnick (U.S. Pub. No. 20010001321). These claims are amended to depend from claim 12, and are allowable, inter alia, for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 12.

Claims 9-11 are canceled by amendment.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly submitted. If the Examiner find that there are any outstanding issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
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